

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly cancel Claims 12-22 without prejudice and with right of re-entry into this application or any other appropriate application. Kindly amend claims 1, 7, 8, 23, and 65 as follows. Also, please add new claims 76-77.

1. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A bundle of framing lumber product, comprising:

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(a) a plurality of elongate pieces of lumber operative to assist in layout and assembly of a wall, wherein such wall comprises a bottom plate and a top plate, and a plurality of dimension studs extending between the bottom plate and the top plate at one or more of a limited number of pre-determined stud spacings along the bottom plate and the top plate, wherein respective ones of said elongate pieces of lumber are operative for use in the bottom plate and/or the top plate, said respective elongate pieces of lumber having first and second ends and lengths therebetween, front surfaces and back surfaces, opposing sides extending between the front and back surfaces along the lengths thereof, and thickness dimensions between the front surfaces and the back surfaces, and between opposing sides thereof;

(b) a plurality of stud locator markings spaced along the lengths of said elongate pieces of lumber at one or more surfaces which assist in defining respective ones of the thickness dimensions, each said stud locator marking defining a position for placement, on the respective said elongate piece of lumber, of an end of a stud dimension lumber piece having opposing front and back surfaces and a thickness dimension therebetween, to be joined to the respective said elongate piece of lumber, the respective said stud locator markings on the respective said elongate pieces of lumber indicating the positions where the front and

back surfaces of respective stud lumber pieces are to intersect the respective said elongate piece of lumber; and

- (c) ✓ at least one strap securing said plurality of elongate pieces of lumber together as said bundle,

the stud locator markings being spaced from each other along the lengths of said elongate pieces of lumber at at least one of the limited number of pre-determined stud spacings.

2. (ORIGINAL) A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 1, said stud locator markings on units of said framing lumber product being spaced at about 8 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

3. (ORIGINAL) A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 1, said stud locator markings on units of said framing lumber product being spaced at about 16 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

4. (ORIGINAL) A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 1, said stud locator markings on units of said framing lumber product being spaced at about 24 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

5. (ORIGINAL) A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 1, variations in spacing between said stud locator markings on a respective said framing lumber product, and between respective ones of said framing lumber products, being consistently no more than .13 inch leading edge to leading edge.

6. (ORIGINAL) A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 1, including sets of 2 side-by-side stud locator markings arrayed along the lengths of respective units of said framing lumber product.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 1, respective units of said framing lumber product being substantially devoid of any location marking indicators away from ~~said~~ the stud locator markings.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 4, respective units of said framing lumber product being substantially devoid of any location marking indicators away from ~~said~~ the stud locator markings.


9. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 1, said stud locator markings extending substantially across the full widths of units of said framing lumber product, said units of said framing lumber product being devoid of other marking indicators extending more than half way across the widths of the framing lumber products whereby the stud locator markings can be readily visually distinguished from such other markings by appearance differences which are not color differences.

10. (ORIGINAL) A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 1, respective said stud locator markings having respective leading edge lines, trailing edge lines, and crossing lines between the leading and trailing edge lines.

11. (ORIGINAL) A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 1, respective said stud locator markings having respective leading edge lines, trailing edge lines, and first and second crossing lines extending from respective leading edge lines to respective trailing edge lines.

12-22. (CANCELED)

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A framing lumber product operative to assist in layout and assembly of a wall wherein such wall comprises a bottom plate and a top plate, and a plurality of dimension studs extending between the bottom plate and the top plate at one or more of a limited number of pre-determined standard stud spacings along the bottom plate and the top plate, said framing lumber product comprising:

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- (a) an elongate piece of lumber for use in one of the bottom plate and the top plate, said elongate piece of lumber having first and second ends and a length therebetween, a front surface and a back surface, opposing sides extending between the front and back surfaces along the length thereof, and thickness dimensions between the front surface and the back surface, and between opposing sides thereof; and
 - (b) a plurality of stud locator markings spaced along the length of said elongate piece of lumber at one or more surfaces which assist in defining respective ones of the thickness dimensions, each said stud locator marking defining a position for placement, on said elongate piece of lumber, of an end of a stud dimension lumber piece having opposing front and back surfaces and a thickness dimension therebetween, to be joined to said elongate piece of lumber;

the plurality of stud locator markings being spaced from each other along the length of said elongate piece of lumber at at least one of the limited number of pre-determined standard stud spacings,

each of the plurality of stud locator markings comprising marking material deposited directly on said elongate piece of lumber at a such respective surface which assists in defining a such thickness dimension of the respective said elongate piece of lumber,

said elongate piece of lumber being ~~generally~~ substantially devoid of any marking indicators away from the stud locator markings.

24. (ORIGINAL) A framing lumber product as in Claim 23, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 8 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

25. (ORIGINAL) A framing lumber product as in Claim 23, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 16 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

26. (ORIGINAL) A framing lumber product as in Claim 23, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 24 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

27. (ORIGINAL) A framing lumber product as in Claim 23, variations in spacing between said stud locator markings being consistently no more than 0.13 inch leading edge to leading edge.

28. (ORIGINAL) A framing lumber product as in Claim 23, including sets of 2 side-by-side stud locator markings arrayed along the length of said framing lumber product.

29. (ORIGINAL) A framing lumber product as in Claim 23, a respective said stud locator marking having a respective leading edge line, a trailing edge line, and crossing lines between the leading edge line and the trailing edge line.

30. (ORIGINAL) A framing lumber product as in Claim 23, a respective said stud locator marking having a respective leading edge line, a trailing edge line, and first and second crossing lines extending from the leading edge line to the trailing edge line.

31-64. (CANCELLED)

65. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A framing lumber product, comprising:

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- (a) an elongate piece of lumber having first and second ends and a length therebetween, a front surface and a back surface, opposing sides extending between the front and back surfaces along the length thereof, and thickness dimensions between the front surface and the back surface, and between opposing sides thereof; and
 - (b) a plurality of stud locator markings spaced along the length of said elongate piece of lumber at one or more surfaces which assist in defining respective ones of the thickness dimensions, each of said stud locator marking defining a position for placement, ~~on the respective said elongate piece of lumber, of an end of a stud lumber piece having opposing front and back surfaces and a thickness dimension therebetween, to be joined to said elongate piece of lumber, the respective said stud locator markings on said elongate piece of lumber indicating the positions where the stud lumber pieces are to intersect said elongate piece of lumber~~ markings comprising a leading edge and a trailing edge, with the trailing edge of a first said stud locator marking being disposed toward a second said stud locator marking, and with the leading edge of the second stud locator marking being disposed toward the first stud locator marking, said leading edge and said trailing edge, on a given said stud locator marking, being separated by a distance generally defined by at least a standard nominal stud thickness,

the stud locator markings being spaced from each other along the length of said elongate piece of lumber at at least one of a limited number of pre-determined standard stud spacings,

each of the plurality of stud locator markings comprising marking material deposited directly on the respective said elongate piece of lumber at a such respective surface which assists in defining a such thickness dimension of the respective said elongate piece of lumber.

66. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A framing lumber product as in Claim 65, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 8 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

67. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A framing lumber product as in Claim 65, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 16 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

68. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A framing lumber product as in Claim 65, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 24 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

69. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A framing lumber product as in Claim 65, variations in spacing between said stud locator markings being consistently no more than 0.13 inch leading edge to leading edge.

70. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A framing lumber product as in Claim 65, including sets of 2 side-by-side stud locator markings arrayed along the length of said framing lumber product.

71. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A framing lumber product as in Claim 65, substantially devoid of location marking indicators away from said stud locator markings.

72. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A framing lumber product as in Claim 68, substantially devoid of location marking indicators away from said stud locator markings.

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73. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A framing lumber product as in Claim 65, said stud locator markings extending substantially across the full width of said framing lumber product, said framing lumber product being devoid of other marking indicators extending more than half way across the width of the framing lumber product whereby the stud locator markings can be readily visually distinguished from other marking indicators by appearance differences which are not color differences.

74. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A framing lumber product as in Claim 65, a respective said stud locator marking having a respective leading edge line, a trailing edge line, and crossing lines between the leading edge line and the trailing edge line.

75. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A framing lumber product as in Claim 65, a respective said stud locator marking having a respective leading edge line, a trailing edge line, and first and second crossing lines extending from the leading edge line to the trailing edge line.

76. (NEW) A framing lumber product as in Claim 65, wherein the trailing edge of the first stud locator marking is separated from the leading edge of the second stud locator marking by a distance greater than the distance between the leading edge and trailing edge of said first stud locator marking.

77. (NEW) A framing lumber product as in Claim 65, wherein a standard dimension stud can be placed on a surface of said elongate piece of lumber which bears said stud locator marking, at a said stud locator marking, so that neither of said leading edge and said trailing edge is completely covered on the respective surface.